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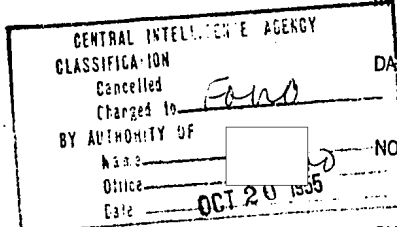
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SOURCE Freie Presse.

LEADING PARTY FUNCTIONARIES IN BEZIRK CHEMNITZ, GERMANY,
DISREGARD RESOLUTION OF SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The following information is extracted from an article by Heinrich Mosler, Chairman of the Bezirk Chemnitz Party Control Commission.

The resolution of the Central Committee of the SED (Socialist Unity Party) on the lessons to be drawn from the Slansky trial clearly shows the danger that exists for the party if a battle is not waged incessantly against ideological and political carelessness, slovenliness, and all deviations from the party line.

The following conclusions from this resolution of the Central Committee are binding on all SED functionaries and members:

"Enemy agents can operate only where there is an atmosphere of self-complacency, rosy optimism, carelessness in ideological matters, and indifference to the execution of party resolutions.

"They can gain ground only where the selection and training of the cadre are neglected, where nepotism is permitted, and where criticism and self-criticism are suppressed and difficulties are evaded."

However, leading functionaries in the SED managements of Kreis Freiberg and Kreis Auerbach disregarded the party's resolution.

The SED management in Kreis Freiberg did not act in accordance with the principles of the party. For example, Thoma, the former labor director in the Administrative Department of the Albert Funk lead-ore mines, the most important industry in the Kreis Freiberg area, canceled technically-established work norms wholly on his own initiative, without consulting the SED and trade union managements. Weissgerber, First Secretary of the Kreis management, was aware of the

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fact that Thoma's past activities made him ineligible to occupy his position. But this fact was ignored because Wauer and Romolla, of the Ministry of Ore Mining, placed him in his position. Thus, since August 1952, Thoma was able to execute the functions of this important post, despite the fact that not even his party book was in the possession of the Kreis management.

The Party Control Commission of the Bezirk unmasked Thoma as an enemy of the party, as a traitor to the working class, and as a Gestapo spy.

The SED management in Kreis Freiberg was guilty of yet another instance of unpardonable negligence. Occupying the position of director of the Material-Procurement Department in the Albert Funk lead-ore mines was an individual named de Moll, who had come from West Germany in 1946. In 1952, de Moll took a trip to West Germany and took his party card with him. While on an "official trip," he visited an individual in Berlin who had fled from the German Democratic Republic, and he returned with trashy Western literature. Although these facts were known to several functionaries in the plant management, as, for example, Comrade Forgbert, the party organization in the plant administration avoided any discussion of this matter. Of course, all the comrades asserted that de Moll was guileful and that his party membership was a mere formality from his point of view, but the Kreis management and the leading functionaries drew no final conclusions whatsoever.

On the basis of the above disclosures, the Party Control Commission of the Bezirk made the following decisions:

Weissgerber, the First Secretary of the Kreis, was reprimanded because of his violation of the basic rules of our cadre policy, and also because of non-exemplary conduct in his personal life.

Thoma and de Moll were expelled from the party as enemies of the party.

Forgbert, Business Manager, was censured because of his neglect of revolutionary vigilance, since he did not inform the party of certain important observations, and also because of his unsatisfactory execution of party resolutions.

Ernst Burghardt, Personnel Director, was reprimanded because of his violation of the resolutions of the Central Committee with respect to cadre policy.

Similar, even more dangerous disclosures were revealed in the functioning of the SED management of Kreis Auerbach. For example, Guennel, the director of the Economic Department in the Kreis management, managed to deceive the party by clever paraphrasing when filling out his questionnaire, and by deliberately concealing his past. During World War II, Guennel was a technical sergeant in the fascist motorized military police, and he was active in partisan fighting in the USSR and northern Italy. All these facts he concealed. The secretariat and the comrades responsible for carrying out the cadre policy disregarded the principle of revolutionary vigilance. The Party Control Commission of the Bezirk unmasked Guennel as a falsifier of questionnaires.

Petermann, the director of the Agitation and Propaganda Department in the SED management of Kreis Auerbach, was a prisoner of war in the US from 1943 to 1946. In 1946, he went to England, where he claimed he was engaged in illegal propaganda work for the Marxist-Leninist doctrines; however, upon being questioned, he could give no definite answers as to the form his propaganda activities took. After release from prison, Petermann joined the People's Police; however, in 1949, he was required to resign for reasons of cadre policy. Even today, Petermann is not in agreement with the necessity for this measure.

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In the Kreis secretariat, the principle of collective guidance is violated. The secretariat does not have an over-all view of the operating methods of the individual secretaries and department directors. For example, Schroeter, the Secretary for Agitation and Propaganda, employed an individual named Winkler as the official radio broadcaster (Betriebsfunksprecher) in one of the most important plants of the Kreis. Winkler had been expelled from the party as a criminal element because he engaged in anti-party propaganda, because he had connections with the West, and because he sold pornographic pictures.

However, it was not only the individual secretaries who acted so carelessly with respect to cadre-policy matters. Even the secretariat, the leading organ in the Kreis, showed tendencies of approving the existence of party enemies in high positions. The Leonhardt case is an example of this. Until recently, Leonhardt, who had been expelled from the party for falsifying his questionnaire, was working in the Kreis Office of Education as the official lecturer at the Auerbach Advanced Technical School, with the knowledge and approval of the Secretariat.

In addition to the drastic cases described above, the inspection of operations and conditions in Kreis Auerbach by the Party Control Commission of the Bezirk revealed a great number of other facts which prove that the secretariat constantly violated all principles of revolutionary vigilance. Expediency is the main reason for this state of affairs. Instead of searching out the new, young workers in the party, the secretariat relied on personnel who are opportunists, Social Democrats, or unreliable elements. The Auerbach Kreis Secretariat is not operating as a guiding and controlling organization; instead, every secretary and department director considers himself authorized to issue orders and directives on cadre matters.

On the basis of the above evidence, the Party Control Commission of the Bezirk made the following decisions:

Leiss, First Secretary of the Kreis, was censured because of criminal negligence of revolutionary vigilance, failure to observe the resolutions of the Third Party Congress and the Central Committee with respect to cadre policy, and patronage of party enemies.

Morgner, Second Secretary of the Kreis, was censured and removed from his office.

Mueller, Secretary of Agriculture, was censured.

Schroeter, Secretary for Agitation and Propaganda, was censured.

Schlosse, Chairman of the Council of Kreis Auerbach, was censured and dismissed from his post.

Schubert, Secretary for Economics, was reprimanded.

Guennel, the former director of the Economic Department, was expelled from the party because of his deliberate lies, falsification of his questionnaire, and patronage of party enemies.

Petermann, director of the Agitation and Propaganda Department, was reprimanded because of lack of vigilance with respect to the Leonhardt case, and was expelled from the Kreis management for reasons of cadre policy.

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